

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 through 11 are currently pending in this application. Please amend Claims 2 through 11, as follows:

1. (Original) A file sharing method for sharing a file stored in a storage system that is connected to a first host computer, which uses a first operating system for managing stored-location information of a file using a first format, and that is connected to a second host computer, which uses a second operating system for managing stored-location information of the file using a second format different from said first format, said file sharing method being used for reading the file, of which stored-location information is managed by said first format, from said second host computer,
said method comprises the steps of:
converting the stored-location information of said file in said first format into stored-location information in said second format; and
reading said file on the basis of the stored-location information in said second format.
2. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] file sharing method according to Claim 1, wherein:
said first operating system manages a stored location of a file on the basis of a block having a first fixed length;
said second operating system manages a stored location of a file on the basis of a block having a second fixed length that is different from said first fixed length;
and
said conversion step converts the stored-location information of said file in the first format into stored-location information in said second format on the basis of a ratio of a data length of said first fixed length to a data length of said second fixed length.
3. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] file sharing method according to Claim 1, wherein:
the stored-location information in said second format, which has been converted by said conversion step, is stored in a cache area in said storage system.

4. (Currently Amended) A storage system that is connected to a first host computer, which uses a first operating system for managing stored-location information of a file using a first format, and that is connected to a second host computer, which uses a second operating system for managing stored-location information of the file using a second format different from said first format, said storage system comprising:
- a plurality of disk drives for storing data therein; and
 - a disk controller comprising an interface for connecting to said first host computer and said second host computer, and an interface for connecting to said plurality of disk drives;
- wherein:
- said disk controller comprises:
- a means for holding stored-location information of a file, which is stored in any one of said plurality of disk drives, in said second format, said stored-location information of the file of the second format ~~being~~ corresponding to the stored-location information of the file in said first format; and
 - a means for reading said file on the basis of the stored-location information in said second format when an access request to access said file is issued from said second host computer.
5. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] storage system according to Claim 4, wherein:
- said disk controller comprises a means for converting the stored-location information of said file in said first format into stored-location information in said second format, in response to a ratio of a data length of a first fixed-length block, which is used when said first operating system manages the stored location of said file, to a data length of a second fixed-length block, which is used when said second operating system manages the stored location of the file.
6. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] storage system according to Claim 4, wherein:
- the stored-location information in said second format corresponding to the stored-location information in said first format of said file is held by any one of said plurality of disk drives instead of the disk controller.

7. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] storage system according to Claim 6, wherein:
a [[the]] first disk drive and a [[the]] second disk drive of among
said plurality of disk drives hold the stored-location information of said file in
said first format, and its corresponding stored-location information in said second
format respectively; and
both of said first disk drive and said second disk drive hold said file.
8. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] storage system according to Claim 7, wherein:
said disk controller accesses said first disk drive when an access request to
access said file is issued from said first host computer; and
said disk controller accesses said second disk drive when an access request to
access said file is issued from said second host computer.
9. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] storage system according to Claim 4, wherein:
said disk controller comprises a means for exclusive control of an access
request from said second host computer when the access request to access said file
from said second host computer conflicts with an access request to access said file
from said first host computer.
10. (Currently Amended) A storage system that is connected to a first host computer,
which uses a first operating system for managing stored-location information of a file
using a first format, and that is connected to a second host computer, which uses a
second operating system for managing stored-location information of the file using a
second format different from said first format, said storage system comprising:
a plurality of disk drives for storing data therein; and
a disk controller comprising an interface for connecting to said first host
computer and said second host computer, and an interface for connecting to said
plurality of disk drives;
wherein:
said disk controller mirrors a file, which is stored in any one of said plurality
of disk drives and is managed under said first operating system, in another disk drive
of among said plurality of disk drives;

said disk controller converts the stored-location information of said file in said first format into its corresponding stored-location information in said second format to write the corresponding stored-location information into said another disk drive; and said disk controller reads said file from said another disk drive when an access request to access said file is issued from said second host computer.

11. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] storage system according to Claim 10, wherein:

said disk controller converts the stored-location information of said file in said first format into stored-location information in said second format, according in response to a ratio of a data length of a first fixed-length block, which is used when said first operating system manages the stored location of the file, to a data length of a second fixed-length block, which is used when said second operating system manages the stored location of the file.